

GLOSSARY

Agriculture – Agriculture involves the use of water for crop spraying, irrigation, livestock watering, poultry operations and other farm purposes not related to human consumption.

Degree of support – The level at which water quality supports the designated uses of a water body specified in the Louisiana Water Quality Standards. The degree of support is divided into three levels: fully supporting uses, partially supporting uses, and not supporting uses.

Designated water use – A use of the waters of the state as established by the Louisiana Water Quality Standards. These uses include, but are not limited to, recreation, propagation of fish and other aquatic life and wildlife, including oysters, public water supply, agricultural activities and outstanding natural resource waters.

Dissolved oxygen – The amount of oxygen dissolved in water, commonly expressed as a concentration in terms of milligrams per liter, mg/l.

Drinking water supply – A surface or underground raw water source which, after conventional treatment, will provide safe, clear, potable and aesthetically pleasing water for uses which include but are not limited to, human consumption, food processing and cooking, and as a liquid ingredient in foods and beverages.

Effluent – Wastewater discharged to waters of the state.

Effluent limitation – Any applicable state or federal quality or quantity limitation, which imposes any restriction or prohibition on quantities, discharge rates and concentrations of pollutants which are discharged into waters of the state.

Effluent limited segment – Any stream segment where water quality is meeting and will continue to meet applicable water quality standards or where there is adequate demonstration that water quality will meet applicable standards after the application of effluent limitations required by the Clean Water Act, as amended.

Evaluated waters – Water bodies for which assessment is based on information other than current site-specific ambient data, such as data on land use, location of pollutant sources, fisheries surveys, fish kill investigations, spill investigations and citizen complaints.

Fecal coliform – Gram negative, non-spore forming, rod-shaped bacteria found in the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals.

Fish and wildlife propagation – Fish and wildlife propagation includes the use of water for preservation and reproduction of aquatic biota such as indigenous species of fish and invertebrates, as well as reptiles, amphibians, and other wildlife associated with the aquatic environment. This use also includes the maintenance of water quality at a level that prevents contamination of aquatic biota consumed by humans.

Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife – A subcategory of fish and wildlife propagation that recognizes not all water bodies are capable of supporting the same level of species diversity and richness. Examples of water bodies to which this may be applied include intermittent streams and man-made water bodies that lack suitable riparian structure and habitat.

Monitored waters – Water bodies for which assessment is based on current site-specific ambient data.

Naturally dystrophic waters – Waters which are stained with organic material and which are low in dissolved oxygen due to natural conditions.

- Nonpoint source – A diffuse source of water pollution that does not discharge through a point source or pipe, but instead flows freely across exposed natural or man-made surfaces, such as plowed fields, pasture land, construction sites and parking lots.
- Outstanding natural resource waters – Outstanding and natural resource waters include water bodies designated for preservation, protection, reclamation, or enhancement of wilderness and aesthetic qualities and ecological regimes, such as those designated under the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System or those designated by the Office of Environmental Assessment as waters of ecological significance. This use designation applies only to the water bodies specifically identified in Louisiana's numerical criteria, ERC 33:IX.1123, Table 3, and not to their tributaries or distributaries, unless so specified.
- Oxygen-demanding substances – Organic matter or materials in water or wastewater which utilize oxygen during the decomposition process, and inorganic material, such as sulfides, which utilize oxygen during the oxidation process.
- Oyster propagation – The use of water to maintain biological systems that support economically important species of oysters, clams, mussels, or other mollusks so that their productivity is preserved and the health of human consumers of these species is protected. This use shall apply only to those water bodies named in the numerical criteria tables and not to their tributaries or distributaries unless so specified.
- Point source – A discernible, confined and discrete conveyance including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.
- Potentiometric surface – An imaginary surface representing the total head of ground water in a confined aquifer that is defined by the level to which water will rise in a well.
- Primary contact recreation – Any recreational activity which involves or requires prolonged body contact with the water, such as swimming, water skiing, tubing, snorkeling and skin-diving.
- Riparian – Area of land along the banks of a stream which often exhibits slightly different vegetation and habitats than the surrounding landscape. Because of this variation, riparian areas are considered valuable wildlife habitat and important for the protection of water quality.
- Subsegment – A named regulatory water body as defined by ERC 33:IX.1123. They are considered representative of the watershed through which they flow and, therefore, have numerical criteria assigned to them. This is the level of watersheds at which §305(b) assessments are applied. Each subsegment has a six digit number assigned in the following manner, 03=basin, 01=segment, 01=subsegment. This would be read as 030101, which represents Calcasieu River-headwaters to Highway 8.
- Secondary contact recreation – Any recreational activity which may involve incidental or accidental body contact with the water and during which the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal, such as fishing, wading and recreational boating.
- Toxic substances – Any element, compound or mixture which at sufficient exposure levels induces deleterious acute or chronic physiological effects on an organism.

Wastewater – Liquid waste resulting from commercial, municipal, private or industrial processes. This includes but is not limited to, cooling and condensing waters, sanitary sewage, industrial waste and contaminated rainwater runoff.

Water body – Any contiguous body of water identified by the state. A water body can be a stream, a river, a segment of a stream or river, a lake, a bay, a series of bays, or a watershed.

Water quality limited segment – Any stream segment where the stream does not meet applicable water quality standards or will not meet applicable water quality standards even after application of the effluent limitations required by the Clean Water Act, as amended.

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